



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 449

LCO No. 1275

* _____SB00449PD_ED_030804_____*

Referred to Committee on Planning and Development

Introduced by:
(PD)

AN ACT CONCERNING BUDGETS OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 7-405 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

3 (a) When annual appropriations have not been made by a
4 municipality before the beginning of any fiscal year, the disbursing
5 officers may make necessary expenditures during the period of ninety
6 days after the beginning of such year on proper warrants for purposes
7 and in amounts authorized by the appropriating body or by the board
8 of finance or other budget-making authority. When annual
9 appropriations have not been made by such municipality before the
10 end of such ninety-day period, the disbursing officers may make
11 necessary expenditures during successive monthly periods in such
12 year on proper warrants for purposes and in amounts authorized by
13 the appropriating body or by the board of finance or other budget-
14 making authority within the limits of appropriations specified in
15 budgetary line items for the previous fiscal year. For this purpose,
16 necessary borrowing may be authorized by resolution of the budget-

17 making authority, provided all such borrowing shall mature and be
18 payable not later than the end of the fiscal year for which such
19 borrowings are made. Any notes so authorized may be issued and sold
20 in the manner provided by such resolution. Such expenditures
21 authorized by this section and interest costs and other expenses
22 incidental to any such borrowing shall constitute the first charges
23 against appropriations for the fiscal year in which they are made.

24 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
25 when an annual budget of a regional school district is not approved by
26 a majority of voters of the member towns of such district before the
27 beginning of any fiscal year, the disbursing officer for each member
28 town of the regional school district shall make necessary expenditures
29 to such district in an amount equal to the total of the town's
30 appropriation to the district for the previous fiscal year and the town's
31 proportionate share in any increment in debt service over the previous
32 fiscal year, until the regional school district budget is approved
33 pursuant to section 10-51, as amended by this act. The town shall
34 receive credit for such expenditures once the budget is approved for
35 the fiscal year.

36 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-51 of the general statutes is
37 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
38 *1, 2004*):

39 (a) The fiscal year of a regional school district shall be July first to
40 June thirtieth. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, not less
41 than two weeks before the annual meeting held pursuant to section 10-
42 47, the board shall hold a public district meeting to present a proposed
43 budget for the next fiscal year. Any person may recommend the
44 inclusion or deletion of expenditures at such time. After the public
45 hearing, the board shall prepare an annual budget for the next fiscal
46 year, make available on request copies thereof and deliver a reasonable
47 number to the town clerk of each of the towns in the district at least
48 five days before the annual meeting. At the annual meeting on the first

49 Monday in May, the board shall present a budget which includes a
50 statement of (1) estimated receipts and expenditures for the next fiscal
51 year, (2) estimated receipts and expenditures for the current fiscal year,
52 (3) estimated surplus or deficit in operating funds at the end of the
53 current fiscal year, (4) bonded or other debt, (5) estimated per pupil
54 expenditure for the current and for the next fiscal year, and (6) such
55 other information as is necessary in the opinion of the board. Persons
56 present and eligible to vote under section 7-6 may accept or reject the
57 proposed budget except as provided below. No person who is eligible
58 to vote in more than one town in the regional school district is eligible
59 to cast more than one vote on any issue considered at a regional school
60 district meeting or referendum held pursuant to this section. Any
61 person who violates this section by fraudulently casting more than one
62 vote or ballot per issue shall be fined not less than three hundred
63 dollars or more than five hundred dollars and shall be imprisoned not
64 less than one year or more than two years and shall be
65 disenfranchised. The regional board of education may, in the call to the
66 meeting, designate that the vote on the motion to adopt the budget
67 shall be by paper ballots at the district meeting held on the budget or
68 by a "yes" or "no" vote on the voting machines in each of the member
69 towns on the day following the district meeting. If submitted to a vote
70 by voting machine, questions may be included on the ballot for
71 persons voting "no" to indicate whether the budget is too high or too
72 low, provided the vote on such questions shall be for advisory
73 purposes only and not binding upon the board. Two hundred or more
74 persons qualified to vote in any regional district meeting called to
75 adopt a budget may petition the regional board, in writing, at least
76 three days prior to such meeting, requesting that any item or items on
77 the call of such meeting be submitted to the persons qualified to vote
78 in the meeting for a vote by paper ballot or on the voting machines in
79 each of the member towns on the day following the district meeting
80 and in accordance with the appropriate procedures provided in section
81 7-7. If a majority of such persons voting reject the budget, the board
82 shall, within four weeks thereafter and upon notice of not less than one

83 week, call a district meeting to consider the same or an amended
 84 budget. Such meetings shall be convened at such intervals until a
 85 budget is approved. If the budget is not approved before the beginning
 86 of a fiscal year, the disbursing officer for each member town, or the
 87 designee of such officer, shall make necessary expenditures to such
 88 district in amounts equal to the total of the town's appropriation to the
 89 district for the previous year and the town's proportionate share in any
 90 increment in debt service over the previous fiscal year, pursuant to
 91 section 7-405, as amended by this act, until the budget is approved.
 92 The town shall receive credit for such expenditures once the budget is
 93 approved for the fiscal year. After the budget is approved, the board
 94 shall estimate the share of the net expenses to be paid by each member
 95 town in accordance with subsection (b) of this section and notify the
 96 treasurer thereof. With respect to adoption of a budget for the period
 97 from the organization of the board to the beginning of the first full
 98 fiscal year, the board may use the above procedure at any time within
 99 such period. If the board needs to submit a supplementary budget, the
 100 general procedure specified in this section shall be used.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

PD

Joint Favorable C/R

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